

aging infrastructure as well as price increases by the city's water supplier. It fell to then-Mayor Holober to note these painful increases in his 2020 reports to the residents, but he also explained all the wonderful work that was done by the public works department, including replacement of many pipes that were more than 50 years old.

A new biotechnology building is under construction near the BART/Caltrain station. Due to the openness of Reuben and his colleagues to new business development, the city is known as a place where companies with the right ideas can get projects successfully through the approval process.

When he joined the council, he was half the age of a typical councilmember. With youthful optimism, he joined the council's Technology Subcommittee and Infrastructure Task Force. His colleagues also assigned him to be the council's representative to the Millbrae Chamber of Commerce, the Peninsula Traffic Congestion Relief Alliance, the San Mateo County Library Joint Powers Authority, and the Caltrain Local Policy Makers Group. Millbrae Community Television, which broadcasts local events, also benefited from his service on its Board of Directors.

Reuben was Mayor in 2020 when COVID arrived. It is almost painful today to read his remarks to colleagues, delivered in November. He noted, "2020 has been an extremely difficult year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. From job losses and economic decline . . . to feelings of isolation and depression . . . due to necessary shelter-in-place and social distancing orders. In many ways . . . we were not prepared for the pandemic." He and his council colleagues rose to the challenge. He noted that the council provided grants to local businesses and helped them apply for greater funding through the SBA. He further noted that 409 businesses received PPP loans that saved 2,600 jobs. The council also passed ordinances to allow curbside dining outdoors, expedited construction permits, closed streets to allow residents and visitors to stroll, and limited fees charged by DoorDash and others so that restaurants could survive without customers being gouged by delivery charges.

All of this was done even though at the time the city's budget took a \$6.5 million hit due to revenue reductions. By cutting other expenses sharply, the deficit was reduced to \$1.3 million, but this left the city operating "on a shoestring budget" according to then-Mayor Holober.

With completion of the new recreation center, major development at the Caltrain/BART station, and commencement of development of a nearby biotechnology complex, Millbrae is finally poised to soar. Reuben Holober can be confident that his quiet and effective leadership was crucial to building a bright future for the city he loves. I wish him, his wife Amy and his son, Nolan, all the best in the years ahead. Reuben Holober, the 25-year-old who wanted to serve, has done a wonderful job for his city and his neighbors. He's now earned the ultimate badge towards the rank of Eagle Scout: Civic duty. Democracy in Millbrae is better due to his time on the council.

## HONORING COUNCILMEMBER PAM STAFFORD

### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2022*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Councilmember Pam Stafford in recognition of her 16 years of dedicated service to the people of Rohnert Park, California.

Ms. Stafford is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles, where she received a Bachelor of Arts in English. She moved to Rohnert Park in the mid-1970s where she has worked as a fitness trainer and a small business owner for more than 42 years. In 2006, Ms. Stafford was elected to the Rohnert Park City Council. During her tenure, she has served as both Vice Mayor and Mayor, being elected unanimously to the latter in 2009 and 2012.

Ms. Stafford has also been a member of the Waste and Recycling Committee, the Rohnert Park Chamber of Commerce board of directors and the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission. Her outside agency appointments include the Association of Bay Area Government General Assembly, Zero Waste Sonoma, the Water Advisory Committee to Sonoma Water and the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

As a councilmember, Ms. Stafford has supported countless improvements to local parks and voted to approve the development of Sonoma Mountain (SOMO) Village—a 200-acre mixed-use and sustainable property that includes over 1,800 housing units, soccer field and commercial space. She has been incredibly active in her community, attending countless events, guiding a dance and exercise class at the Rohnert Park Community Center and supporting the performing arts at the local community theater.

Ms. Stafford and her late husband Joseph Mark Stafford have three children, Bryce, Kyle and Megan. She is also the proud grandmother of six.

Madam Speaker, I thank Councilmember Stafford for more than a decade of exemplary leadership and selfless service. Her efforts have undoubtedly made Rohnert Park a more green, welcoming and enjoyable place to live. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

## HONORING THE LATE BOBBY SILVERSTEIN

### HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2022*

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Bobby Silverstein. Bobby was a dedicated public servant and advocate for advancing disability rights. Within both the House of Representatives and the Senate, he worked tirelessly to champion the needs and priorities of the disability community. Specifically, Bobby played a critical role in crafting the Americans with Disabilities Act and fighting to secure its enactment while serving as staff director and chief counsel for Senator Harkin's Disability Policy Committee.

Bobby will be remembered for his compassion and commitment to creating a society that is fully inclusive and accessible for all Americans. Bobby's dedication to advancing the opportunities for and dignity of those with disabilities were shared by his colleague and friend, Judy Heumann at his memorial service. In honor of Bobby, I include in the RECORD Judy's speech.

When I learned of Bobby's passing, like all of you I was stunned and deeply saddened. I thought immediately of you Lynne, Mark, Evan and your families, and the shock and sadness you would be experiencing. Then I began to think about Bobby and the life that he led. The example he was to everyone whose life he touched. And then a smile came across my face, because Bobby was the epitome of a life well lived.

Like many of us joining today, I had the opportunity and privilege to work with Bobby on some of the critical pieces of legislation that he helped conceptualize, negotiate, and lead on with Congress—especially Senator Harkin—and the disability community to pass. In particular, I remember being both honored and fearful when I was asked to be one of the presenters at the ADA joint hearings. I wanted to make sure that my words enabled the members of Congress to get a clear understanding of why passage of the ADA was so important. But I was, to say the least, quite terrified because of the gravity of the hearings and all that was riding on them.

I shouldn't have worried though, and it was a beautiful experience for me to work with Bobby on the testimony. He was, as always, completely prepared, and he worked tirelessly with me and the other presenters to ensure that we were prepared too. In his diligent way, he made sure that we were acknowledged, respected, and felt valued in sharing our personal stories of discrimination and how it impacted our lives. This testimony was one of my proudest moments, and it meant a great deal to me that Bobby felt it was a powerful and impactful presentation.

How fortunate we were to have had Bobby Silverstein in our movement. Bobby took the time to learn about our lives, and to learn about the importance of being able to get laws like the ADA passed, or the IDEA reauthorized. He understood how important it was for concepts like independent living to be enshrined in the law. He knew how to collaborate, and negotiate—to negotiate hard if the circumstances called for it—and how to disagree without being disagreeable. As smart and strategic as he was, he was also proud of our accomplishments, but at the same time humble, kind, and ethical. And he would always pick up the phone when I called, whether it was 7:00 in the morning or 10 pm in the evening! I will miss being able to do that, to get guidance on one thing or another, or just to check in.

That said, when it came to work / life balance, you always knew that with Bobby, family came first. Being in the presence of Bobby and Lynne was to know a deep love and respect that spanned more than 50 years, and to see what it can produce; not only in a relationship but in a family. You could see how lovingly they raised their wonderful sons, Mark and Evan, and the joy that they experienced when, in turn, Mark and Evan married and had their own children. I loved when Bobby talked about what he and Lynne were doing with the grandchildren, and the pride they took in being able to devote such time and care to them. It has been a privilege to see such devoted parents raising children who have grown up to carry forward the same principled approach to life.